

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

SAM-01 /061 W

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R 031228Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4115

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 0019

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SP

SUBJ: ARRIBA COMMENT ON ALLEGED CIA INVOLVEMENT WITH SPANISH
NON-COMMUNIST GROUPS AND ALSO ON EMBASSY CONTACTS WITH
OPPOSITION, ALLEGEDLY INCLUDING COMMUNISTS

REF: MADRID 9024, 9066 AND 9085

STATE 304941 AND 305629

1. MOST ADDITIONAL PRESS COMMENT STEMMING FROM SACRAMENT
BEE ARTICLE HAS THUS FAR BEEN ROUTINE AND RATHER FORTUNATELY
JUXTAPOSED WITH ARTICLES ON REPORTED WESTERN EUROPEAN POLITICAL
PARTY ASSISTANCE TO THE SPANISH SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY
(PSOE). HOWEVER, JAN. 3 ARRIBA (WHICH IS A RIGHTIST MOVEMENT
ORGAN) HAS A LENGTHY ARTICLE BY ITS NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT
FELIX ORTEGA THAT IS A STUDY IN ACID MISREPRESENTATION AND
NON SEQUITUR.

2. THE ARTICLE DEALS WITH BOTH THE SACRAMENTO BEE REPORT
AND THE FLORA LEWIS NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ON U.S. POLICY
REGARDING CONTACTS WITH OPPOSITION GROUPS INCLUDING COMMUNISTS.

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IT REPORTS THE SACRAMENTO BEE AS SAYING THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER

APPROVED UNDERCOVER CIA ASSISTANCE TO SPANISH NON-COMMUNIST POLITICAL GROUPS, AND THE NEW YORK TIMES AS SAYING THAT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN MADRID HAS DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE CLANDESTINE OPPOSITION AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL AND ALSO BREAKS WASHINGTON INSTRUCTIONS BY HAVING CONTACTS WITH THE SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY. COMMENT: CONTRARY TO THE FLORA LEWIS ARTICLE THE EMBASSY DOES NOT HAVE CONTACTS WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTY.

3. TAKING OFF FROM THESE POINTS, ORTEGA'S CENTRAL MESSAGE IS THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER SHOULD MAKE A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION NOT TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF SPAIN, WHICH IS NOT A BANANA REPUBLIC AND WHICH IS IN A VERY DELICATE POLITICAL SITUATION. ORTEGA ARGUES AT LENGTH THAT IT IS ONE THING FOR FOREIGN POLITICAL PARTIES TO HAVE CONTACTS WITH SPANISH POLITICAL GROUPS, BUT QUITE ANOTHER FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO HAVE SUCH CONTACTS. EMBASSIES, HE ASSERTS, SHOULD DEAL ONLY WITH GOVERNMENTS AND LIMIT THEMSELVES PRINCIPALLY TO ECONOMIC AND REPRESENTATION MATTERS. SPAIN'S POLITICAL EVOLUTION SHOULD BE LEFT UP TO SPAIN. HE ALSO ARGUES THAT THE UNITED STATES IS PLAYING A DOUBLE GAME BY PROHIBITING CONTACTS WITH THE COMMUNISTS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PERMITTING - PERHAPS EVEN ENCOURAGING THEM.

4. EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW GUIDANCE AND INSTRUCTIONS IN STATE REFTELS IN DEALING WITH THE ARRIBA ARTICLE. IT WILL PRIVATELY POINT OUT AS APPROPRIATE THAT MADRID PRESS REPORTING OF ARTICLES IN QUESTION IS INACCURATE.
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